



This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at <http://books.google.com/>

AN OLD SWEETHEART OF MINE



JAMES
WHITCOMB
RILEY

ILLUSTRATED BY

HOWARD CHANDLER CHRISTY

AL 3145.4.15.9
A

Harvard College Library



**BOUGHT WITH MONEY
RECEIVED FROM THE
SALE OF DUPLICATES**

**An Old
Sweetheart of Mine**



An Old Sweetheart of Mine

James Whitcomb Riley

Drawings by
Howard Chandler Christy

Decorations by
Virginia Keep

The Bobbs-Merrill Company
Publishers Indianapolis

C. 3145.4.18.9

MARYARD COLLEGE LIBRARY

BOUGHT FROM
DUPLICATE MONEY

AUG 15 1940

Copyright, 1888-1899-1902

James Whitcomb Riley

Copyright, 1902

The Bowen-Merrill Company

Press of

Braunworth & Co.

Bookbinders and Printers

Brooklyn, N. Y.

**An Old
Sweetheart of Mine**

INSCRIBED

To GEORGE C. HITT

The beginning of whose steadfast friendship was marked by the first publication of these verses which now, expanded by writer, honored by publisher and masterfully graced by artist, seem to be a worthier symbol of the author's grateful and affectionate regard for his earliest friend

List of Illustrations

- I Frontispiece—An Old Sweetheart of Mine.
- II A fair, illusive vision that would vanish
into air
- III The *then* of changeless sunny days—The
now of shower and shine
- IV The old bookshelves and prints along the
wall
- V I find the smiling features of an old sweet-
heart of mine
- VI Its fate with my tobacco and to vanish
with the smoke

List of Illustrations

- VII When my truant fancies wander with that
old sweetheart of mine
- VIII The voices of my children and the mother
as she sings
- IX For I find an extra flavor in Memory's
mellow wine
- X O childhood days enchanted ! O the magic
of the spring
- XI To—smile, behind my lesson, at that old
sweetheart of mine
- XII A face of lily-beauty, with a form of airy
grace

List of Illustrations

- XIII When first I kissed her, and she answered
the caress
- XIV I slipped the apple in it—and the teacher
didn't know
- XV She gave me her *photograph*, and printed
“Ever Thine”
- XVI And again I feel the pressure of her
slender little hand
- XVII Where the vines were ever fruited, and
the weather ever fine
- XVIII And she my faithful sweetheart till the
golden hair was gray
- XIX The door is softly opened, and—my wife
is standing there

*The ordered intermingling
of the real and the dream,—
The mill above the river,
and the mist above the stream;
The life of ceaseless labor,
brave with song and cheery call—
The radiant skies of evening,
with its rainbow o'er us all.*

AN OLD SWEETHEART OF MINE!—Is this
her presence here with me,
Or but a vain creation of
a lover's memory?

A fair, illusive vision
that would vanish into air
Dared I even touch the silence
with the whisper of a prayer?



ANDERSON, J. H.

Nay, let me then believe in all
the blended false and true—
The semblance of the *old* love
and the substance of the *new*,—

The *then* of changeless sunny days—
the *now* of shower and shine—
But Love forever smiling,—
as that old sweetheart of mine.



Small Cottage, Chatham, N.Y.

This ever-restful sense of *home*,
 though shouts ring in the hall.—
The easy-chair—the old bookshelves
 and prints along the wall;

The rare *Habanas* in their box,
or gaunt churchwarden-stem
That often wags, above the jar,
derisively at them.



As one who cons at evening
o'er an album, all alone,
And muses on the faces
of the friends that he has known,

So I turn the leaves of Fancy,
till, in shadowy design,
I find the smiling features of
an old sweetheart of mine.



The lamplight seems to glimmer
with a flicker of surprise,
As I turn it low—to rest me
of the dazzle in my eyes,

And light my pipe in silence,
 save a sigh that seems to yoke
Its fate with my tobacco
 and to vanish with the smoke.



Illustration by Charles E. Schreyer

'Tis a *fragrant* retrospection,—
for the loving thoughts that start
Into being are like perfume
from the blossom of the heart;

And to dream the old dreams over
is a luxury divine—
When my truant fancies wander
with that old sweetheart of mine.



—and Under the Tree—

Though I hear beneath my study,
 like a fluttering of wings,
The voices of my children
 and the mother as she sings—

I feel no twinge of conscience
to deny me any theme
When Care has cast her anchor
In the harbor of a dream—



In fact, to speak in earnest,
I believe it adds a charm
To spice the good a trifle
with a little dust of harm,—

For I find an extra flavor
in Memory's mellow wine
That makes me drink the deeper
to that old sweetheart of mine.



—Grand Chevalier Christian Dior—

O Childhood-days enchanted!
O the magic of the Spring!—
With all green boughs to blossom white,
and all bluebirds to sing!

When all the air, to toss and quaff,
made life a jubilee
And changed the children's song and
laugh to shrieks of ecstasy.



With eyes half closed in clouds that ooze
from lips that taste, as well,
The peppermint and cinnamon,
I hear the old School-bell,

And from "Recess" romp in again
from "Blackman's" broken line,
To—smile, behind my "lesson",
at that old sweetheart of mine.



14

A face of lily-beauty,
with a form of airy grace,
Floats out of my tobacco
as the "Genii" from the vase;

And I thrill beneath the glances
of a pair of azure eyes
As glowing as the summer
and as tender as the skies.



I can see the pink sunbonnet
and the little, checkered dress
She wore when first I kissed her
and she answered the caress

With the written declaration that,
 “As surely as the vine
Grew 'round the stump,” she loved me—
 that old sweetheart of mine.



—John Charles Chesney, 1888

Again I make her presents,
in a really helpless way,—
The big “Rhode Island Greening”—
(I was hungry too, that day!)—

But I follow her from Spelling,
with her hand behind her—so—
And I slip the apple in it—
and the Teacher doesn't know!



Wm. Chandler Christy 1892

I give my *treasures* to her—all,—
my pencil—blue-and-red;—
And, if little girls played marbles,
mine should all be *hers*, instead!—

But *she* gave me her *photograph*,
and printed "Ever Thine"
Across the back—in blue-and-red—
that old sweetheart of mine!



And again I feel the pressure
of her slender little hand,
As we used to talk together
of the future we had planned,—

When I should be a poet,
 and with nothing else to do
But write the tender verses
 that she set the music to....



Illustration of a young boy and girl sitting on the ground.

When we should live together
in a cozy little cot
Hid in a nest of roses,
with a fairy garden-spot,

Where the vines were ever fruited
and the weather ever fine,
And the birds were ever singing
for that old sweetheart of mine....



When I should be her lover
forever and a day,
And she my faithful sweetheart
till the golden hair was gray;

And we should be so happy
that when either's lips were dumb
They would not smile in Heaven
till the other's kiss had come!



But, ah! my dream is broken
by a step upon the stair,
And the door is softly opened,
and—my wife is standing there:

Yet with eagerness and rapture
all my visions I resign,—
To greet the *living* presence
of that old sweetheart of mine.







This book should be returned to
the Library on or before the last date
stamped below.

A fine of five cents a day is incurred
by retaining it beyond the specified
time.

Please return promptly.

W
STUDIE
LI

HOW
CHAN
CHRIST

AL 3145.4.15.9

An old sweetheart of mine /

Widener Library

003539458



3 2044 080 924 764